

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please amend claims 1, 3-5, and 9, and **add** new claims 13-17, as shown in the complete list of claims that is presented below.

1. (currently amended) An object supplying device, comprising:

a principal information storing section to store first information about each of a plurality of principals, the first information for each principal including a principal ID that identifies the respective principal and a principal information value that contains information about the respective principal;

an object information storing section to store second information about each of a plurality of objects, the second information for each object including an object information value that identifies the respective object and a principal information value template corresponding to the respective object and indicating at least one condition that must be followed as a precondition for receiving the respective object; and

an application section to retrieve ~~a plurality of pieces of a principal~~ information value stored in said principal information storing section in response to a principal ID ~~information~~ supplied by one of said principals, and to use the pieces of information ~~retrieved from the principal information storing section along with a matching rule to~~ transform the retrieved principal information value into a transformed value, and to ascertain whether the transformed value is the same as one of the principal information value templates stored in the object information storing section, in which case said one of said principals is determined to fulfill a condition for being an authorized recipient of the object corresponding to said one of the principal information value templates. ~~information stored in said object information storing section to identify an object corresponding to said one of said principals.~~

2. (previously presented) The object supplying device according to Claim 1, wherein said object supplying device is a distributed processing device in a distributed processing system including a network and said distributed processing device is connected to said network.

3. (currently amended) The object supplying device according Claim 2, ~~where in~~ wherein said distributed processing system includes said distributed processing device operating as a server and a plurality of client units connectable to said server through said network, and wherein said one of said principals is any one of said client units, used by a user.

4. (currently amended) The object supplying device according to Claim 3, wherein said distributed processing system comprises a portable communication system provided with a portable communication terminal, and wherein said client unit constitutes said one of said principals and is said portable communication terminal.

5. (currently amended) The object supplying device according to Claim 1, further comprising a receiving section to receive, from said one of said principals, information about authentication needed to authenticate said one of said principals and an authenticating section to authenticate said one of said principals based on said authentication information received by said receiving section and by referring to said first information stored in said principal information storing section, and wherein said application section, when said one of said principals is authenticated by said authenticating section to be an authorized principal, performs retrieval and supply of said object.

6. (previously presented) The object supplying device according to Claim 1, wherein said application section, when being request by said one of said principals to supply an object, performs retrieval and supply of said object.

7. (previously presented) The object supplying device according to Claim 1, further comprising a principal information managerial section which, when information stored in said principal information managerial section is changed, notifies said change to any service requesting notification of said change, out of two or more services, and wherein said application section has a plurality of services defining a plurality of objects.

8. (previously presented) The object supplying device according to Claim 7, further comprising an object information managerial section to change said object information in accordance with a change notification from said principal information managerial section.

9. (currently amended) The object supply device according to Claim 1, wherein said application section uses ~~said pieces of~~ information retrieved from said principal information storing section along with said second information stored in said object information storing section in accordance with a the predetermined matching rule.

10. (previously presented) The object supplying device according to Claim 1, wherein said application section further comprises a plurality of services defining said objects, and supplies said object corresponding to said one of said principals to said one of said principals over a network.

11. (previously presented) The object supplying device according to Claim 1, wherein a principal is added or deleted by modifying said principal information in said principal information storing section, without modifying said object information stored in said object information storing section.

12. (previously presented) The object supplying device according to Claim 11, wherein an object is added or deleted by modifying said object information in said objection information storing section, without modifying said principal information in said principal information storing section.

13. (new) The object supplying device according to Claim 1, wherein the first information stored in the principal information storing section additionally includes principal information key data and the second information stored in the object information storing section additionally includes principal information key data, the stored principal information key data being used as another condition for determining authorized recipients of objects.

14. (new) The object supplying device according to Claim 7, wherein the first information stored in the principal information storing section additionally includes principal information key data and the second information stored in the object information storing section additionally includes principal information key data, the stored principal information key data being used as another condition for determining authorized recipients of objects.

15. (new) The object supplying device according to Claim 14, wherein the principal information managerial section comprises an entity registering table to register entities needing to receive data indicating a change in the principal information storing section.

16. (new) The object supplying device according to Claim 15, wherein the entities are services.

17. (new) The object supplying device according to claim 16, wherein, when a change in the principal information storing section occurs, the principal information managerial section sends notices indicating the change to the services.